

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT AND ELECTION OF SPECIES**

Applicant hereby FINALLY elects the subject matter of Species II, claims 2-21, for prosecution on the merits. Applicant reserves the right to file divisional applications on the non-elected subject matter.

**The Examiner is authorized to cancel the non-elected claims upon allowance of claims 2-21 or all remaining claims within that Group.**

## SUMMARY OF THE OFFICE ACTION

- 1) Claim 9 has been rejected under the **first paragraph** provisions of 35 USC 112 as containing matter which was not originally described in the specification.
- 2) Claims 2, 3, 6, 8, 11, 12, 15 and 17 have been finally rejected under 35U.S.C § 102(b) as being anticipated by Berg (5,984,988).
- 3) Claims 4 and 13 have been finally Rejected under 35U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Berg (5,984,988) in light of Howard (3,916,584) and in further view of the rejections of Claims 2 and 11. The use of dehydrating liquid is commonly practiced and well known in the art.
- 4) Claims 5 and 14 have been finally rejected under 35U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Berg (5,984,988) in light of Eisenberg (4,393,021) and in further view of the rejections of Claims 2 and 11.
- 5) Claims 7 and 16 have been finally rejected under 35U.S.C. 103 (a) as unpatentable over Berg (5,984,988) in light of Culler (6,521,004) and the Quadro Engineering Incorporated Comil® product description.
- 6) Claims 9 and 10 have been rejected under 35U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Berg (5,984,988) in view of Mathews (3,838,998).
- 7) Claims 9 and 10 have been rejected under 35U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Berg (5,984,988) in view of Cai (Phys Rev Lett. 2202 Dec:89(23):235501.) Cai indicates that “gamma-alumina is known to transform to theta-alumina and finally to alpha-alumina upon thermal treatment. It is asserted to be obvious to choose gamma-alumina as taught by Cai from the Claim 18 material list to be converted into alpha alumina in the thermal treatment set by Berg.
- 8) Claims 19 and 20 Rejected under 35U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Berg (5,984,988) in view of Culler (6,521,004).

- 9) Claim 19 and 20 have been rejected under 35U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Berg (5,984,988).
- 10) Claim 21 has been rejected under 35U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Berg (5,984,988) in view of in view of Ramanath (5,834,569).